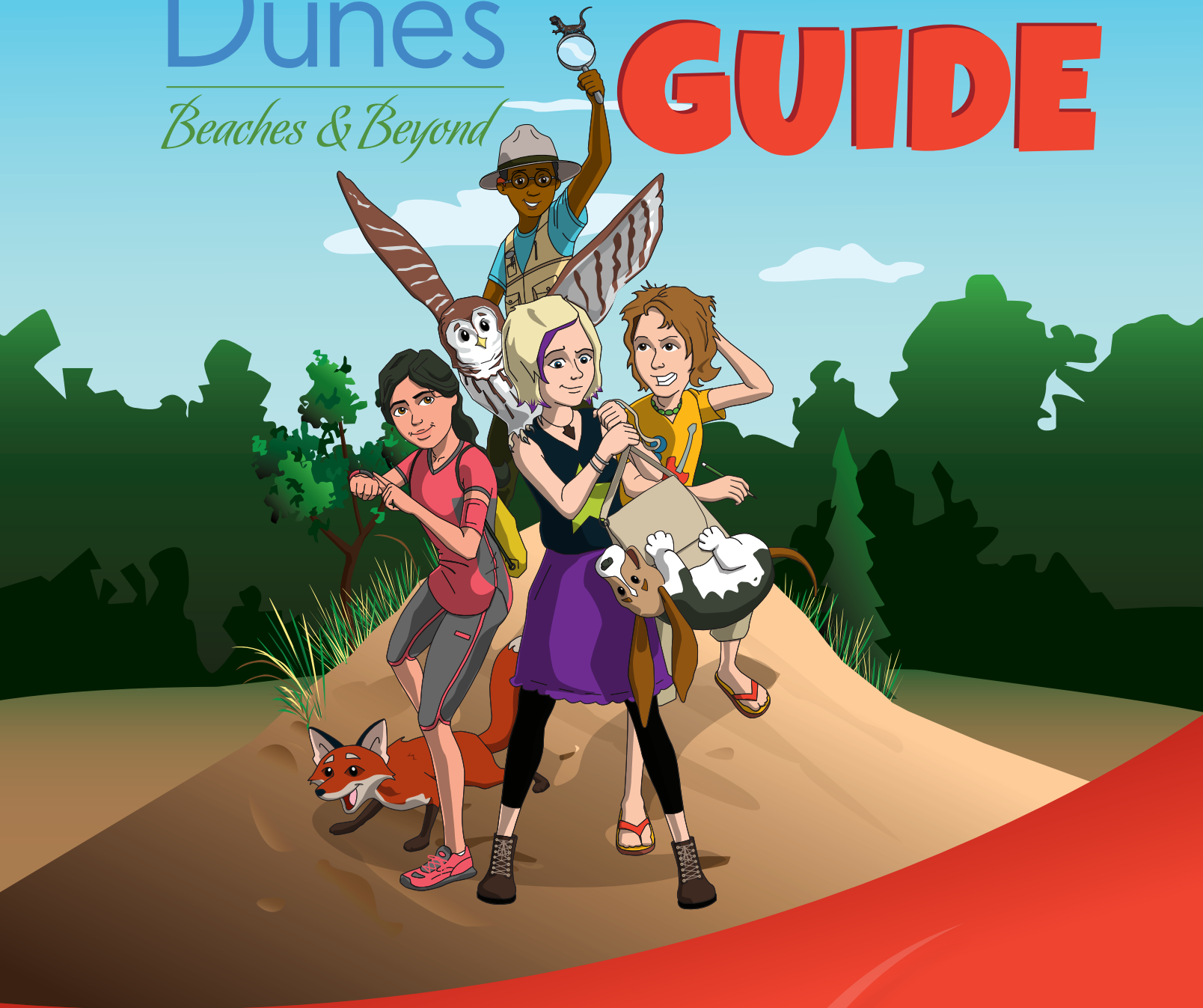



Indiana
Dunes
Beaches & Beyond

KIDS GUIDE



2019

WELCOME TO THE **INDIANA Dunes!**

Look out for Ranger Matt's
Parent Tips in blue.

Hi, I'm Ranger Matt!

Welcome to the Indiana Dunes—
I'm here to make sure you get the
most out of your adventure.



Parent Tip:

Watch our Dunes 101
Video Series to explore
everything you need to know
about the Indiana Dunes
and its surrounding area.
These five videos have all
the tips you'll need to
plan your visit.

Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

1215 N. State Road 49, Porter
219-926-2255
indianadunes.com
info@indianadunes.com

Let's Get Started...

In your Kids Guide, you'll discover places hand-picked by the Indiana Dunes Discovery Kids. They're your expert guides for every type of adventure. Do you like exploring the great outdoors or making unique artwork? Do you like hearing stories or learning about animals and wildlife? No matter what you like to do, the Dunes Discovery Kids know how to help you plan an adventure just for you.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

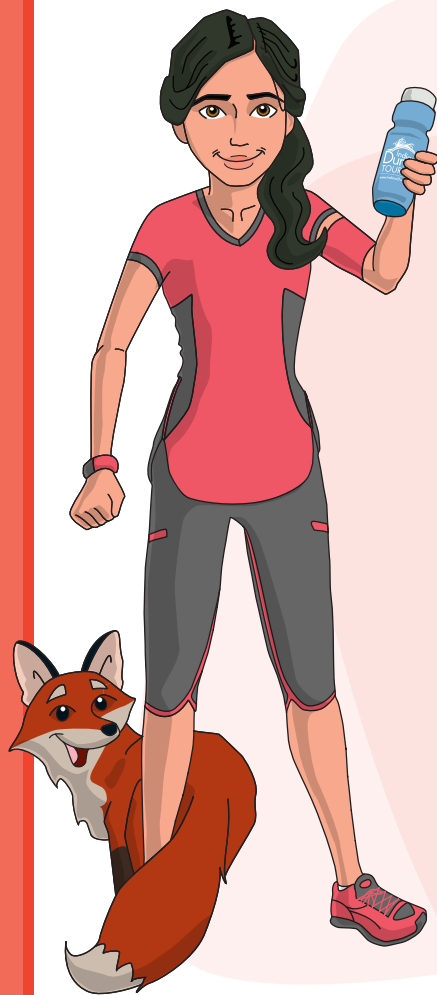
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If you see a place you'd like to visit, just fill in the star next to it with your pencil. When you make it to the end of this guide, count up all of your stars and write them on the "My Dunes Adventure" page. Then, it's time to head out on your very own Indiana Dunes adventure!

Meet the Indiana
Dunes Discovery Kids
on the next page.





Ayla the Adventurer

Hi, I'm Ayla! If you want to explore nature and get a great workout at the same time, come along with me. I'll take you to the best places to go hiking, biking, paddling, and fishing at the Indiana Dunes. We're sure to work up a sweat on our adventure, but I know we can do it!

Franky the Fox

Oh, and this is my good friend, Franky the fox! Don't be surprised if you lose sight of him. Franky is the best at finding hidden gems, or cool things that not a lot of people know about. Find Franky and uncover amazing hidden gems all over the Indiana Dunes!

Explore outdoor adventures at indianadunes.com/beaches-and-beyond.



Jake the Artist

What's up? I'm Jake. I love to take pictures, draw, make music, and act in plays—that's why they call me the artist! This area is full of ways to get creative. Come check out some of my favorite places at the Indiana Dunes, and I'll show you how to capture all the colors of the rainbow.

Bailly the Basset Hound

Meet my best buddy, Bailly the basset hound! One of the best things about the Indiana Dunes is that there's tons of stuff for Bailly to do too. There are lots of places for him to tag along while I eat and play, so look for Bailly's paw prints to see where your four-legged pals can go.

Request our Pet Guide at indianadunes.com/destination-guides.

Zoe the Storyteller

Hey there, I'm Zoe! My friends call me a storyteller because I love learning all about places and people from the past. Did you know that the story of the Indiana Dunes began a long, long time ago, back when this whole area was covered in ice? I just can't wait to take you on a journey through the ages.

Orville the Owl

This my friend Orville the owl. Did you know that the Indiana Dunes is home to over 350 kinds of birds? Try the Backpacks for Birders program and see how many of Orville's friends you can spot. You can borrow a free backpack full of tools to turn you into a full-fledged Indiana Dunes birder!

Discover Backpacks for Birders at indianadunes.com/birding.

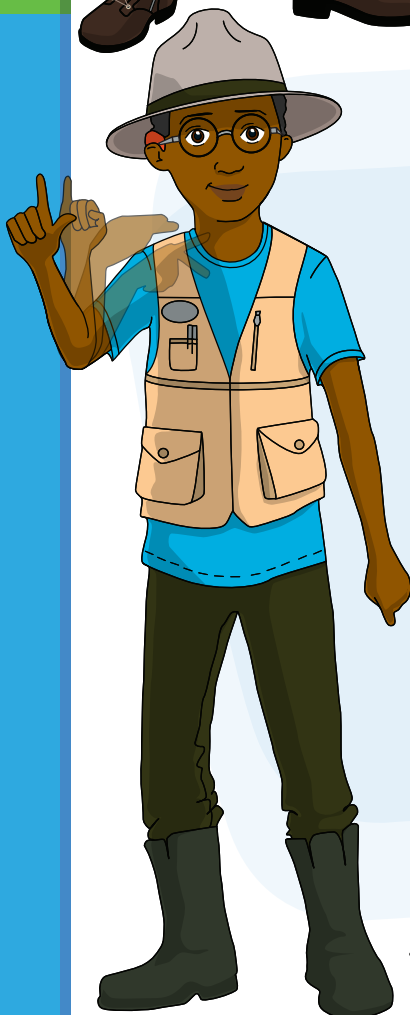
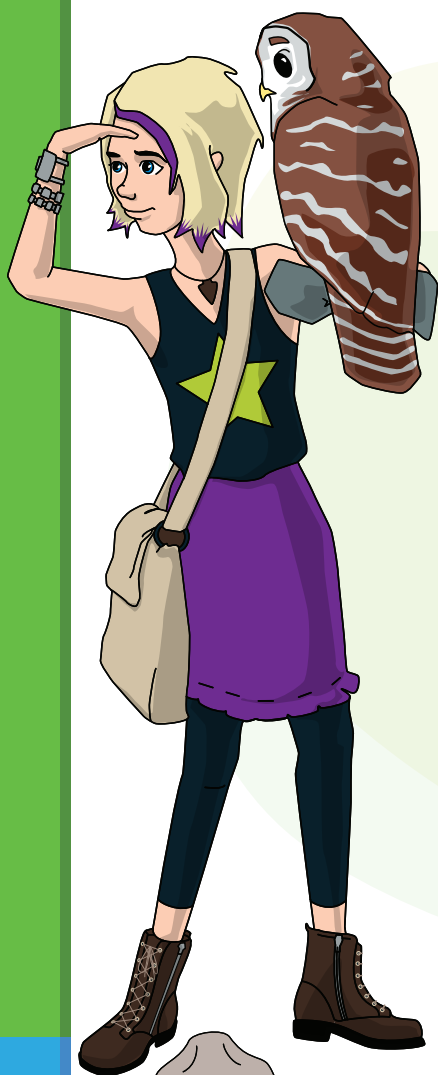
Phil the Scientist

My name is Phil. Nice to meet you! What would you say if I told you that I talk with my hands and listen with my eyes? I'm Deaf, which means that I can do everything a hearing person can do except hear! I love science and learning about animals and plants, and I can show you how to see the Indiana Dunes in a whole new way.

Sandy the Salamander

Let me introduce you to my pal, Sandy the blue-spotted salamander! Sandy needs a clean, wet environment so she and her family can grow. You can help take care of her home by volunteering to pick up trash around the Indiana Dunes National Park. Ask for a trash bag at the Visitor Center, and get a free Indiana Dunes water bottle for helping us!

Discover the Park Connection at indianadunes.com/volunteer.



VISITOR CENTER

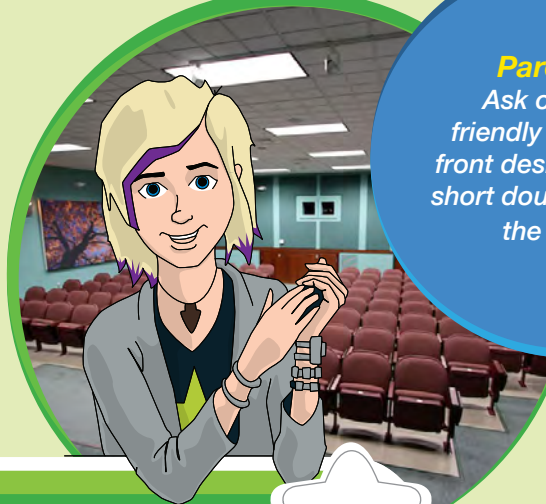
Indiana Dunes Visitor Center

1215 N. State Road 49, Porter

219-926-2255

indianadunes.com

info@indianadunes.com



Parent Tip:
Ask one of our friendly faces at the front desk to turn on a short double-feature in the theater.

Films in the Theater

There's so much waiting to be discovered at the Indiana Dunes! Get started in the Visitor Center theater, where you'll learn all kinds of interesting facts about the history of the Indiana Dunes area.

Landmark: The Indiana Dunes Visitor Center is home-base of Indiana's very first National Park!



Dunes Kankakee Bike Trail



Dunes Kankakee Bike Trail



This two-mile trail starts at the Visitor Center parking lot and goes straight to the Indiana Dunes State Park. You can also get to Dune Park Station, where some South Shore Line cars will let you take your bike on the train and ride all the way to Chicago! **Hidden Gem:** Keep an eye out for educational signs along the art walk to learn all kinds of interesting facts about the dunes!

Parent Tip:

The Visitor Center is the best place to start your dunes adventure, get directions, maps, and guides, and learn about fun seasonal programs and activities.



Deer

3



Saw Whet Owl

2



Bison

1

Main Entrance

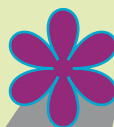


Parent Tip:

Pedal Power Rentals, just east of the Visitor Center parking lot, has vintage and modern bikes for the whole family including helmets and bike locks.



Pedal Power Bike Rentals



Garden Walk



The Visitor Center is a cool place to see all kinds of plants bloom and stop to smell the flowers! At the end of summer, you can't miss the huge groups of monarch butterflies that nest and rest here before their long migration south. **Closer Look:** Check out the milkweed plants around the Visitor Center in the Spring—it's a nesting area for monarch butterflies!



Art Walk



Check out the Indiana Dunes wildlife murals on the ARCY Artwalk, painted by artist Ryan "ARC Y" Christenson. He also painted a life-size bison statue right outside the front doors and a bench in the back garden. **Selfie Station:** Snap a picture in front of your favorite work of art, and share it with us on social media with [#indianadunes](#) and [#beachesandbeyond](#).



Can you find all four of the Indiana Dunes Discovery Kid's animal companions in the map?

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

3 Dune Challenge



Hiking up the three highest sand dunes at the Indiana Dunes State Park isn't easy, but the views at the top of each dune are so pretty. Don't worry—you can do the challenge at your own pace! Make it over all three to become a Dune Conqueror, and make sure you head back to the Visitor Center for your free 3 Dune Challenge sticker.

Indiana Dunes State Park
1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton
indianadunes.com/3dc



Selfie Station:

The sign at the top of Mt. Tom is a great place to smile for the camera. Share your pic with us using #indianadunes and #3dunchallenge



Imagination Glen



There's a lot to do at this park, but my favorite is definitely the Outback Mountain Bike Trail. I like to stick to the trail west of Salt Creek because it's great for beginners, and you don't have to stay on your bike—you can also hike, run, or even go birdwatching! Remember to put on your helmet before you tackle those hills.

2275 McCool Rd., Portage
inportageparks.com



Roots Organic Juice Cafe This is my favorite place to grab a snack after a great outdoor adventure! Roots has delicious smoothies and lots of healthy treats that will help replace the energy you sweat out on the trails. If you have allergies or a restricted diet, Roots is also gluten-free, grain-free, soy-free, and meat-free!

108 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso
219-510-0002
rootsjuicecafe.com

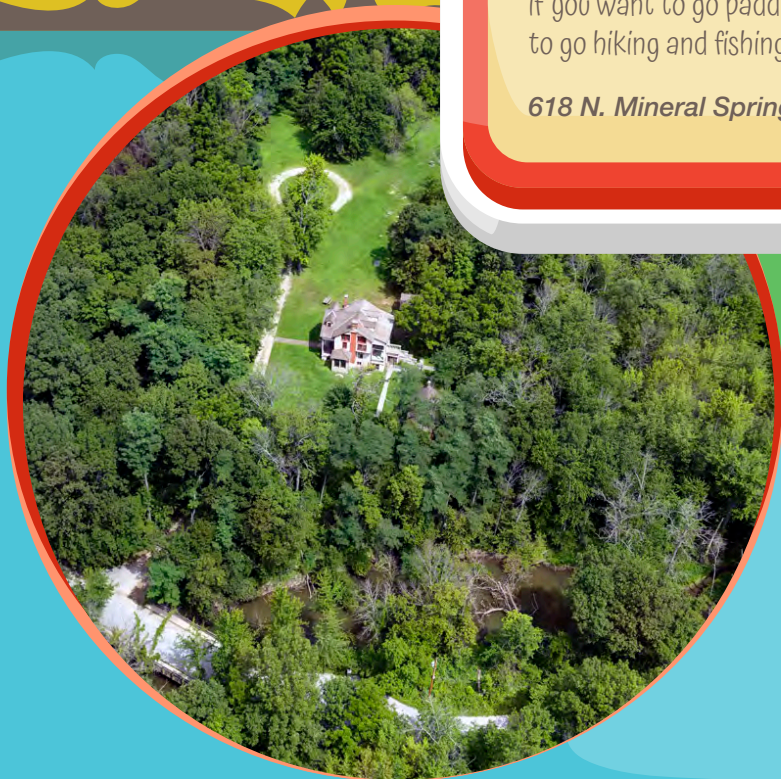


Little Calumet River Trail



The Little Calumet Trail connects some of my favorite places at the dunes, like Bailly Homestead, Chellberg Farm, and the Dunes Learning Center. I like taking my kayak here because the river is nice and slow, so you can easily stick close to your family. You'll have to bring your own kayak if you want to go paddling, but it's a great place to go hiking and fishing too!

618 N. Mineral Springs Rd., Porter



Closer Look: The 3 Dune Challenge is a great team-building adventure for runners, or even for a class field trip.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Ceramix 101 This is a super fun place to have a birthday party or bring your friends! Just find a piece of pottery, pick your colors, and start painting. The shelves are filled with all kinds of cool stuff to paint, from bowls and plates to piggy banks. Use your creativity to make something special to keep or to give as a gift to someone you care about.

908 Roosevelt Rd., Ste. C, Valparaíso
219-531-6536
ceramix101.net

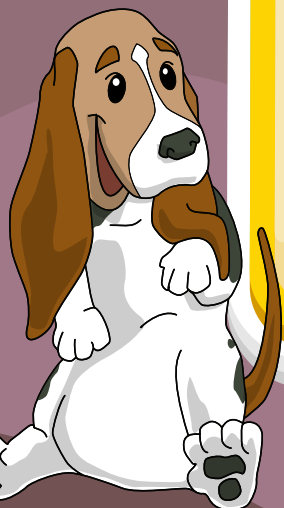


Zao Island This is one of my favorite places because it's full of imagination! I like to pretend I'm on an epic quest as I make my way through mini-golf, laser tag, and the arcade. In the summer, you can even feed baby alligators! And when you're done exploring, Zao Island has some of the best pizza in town.

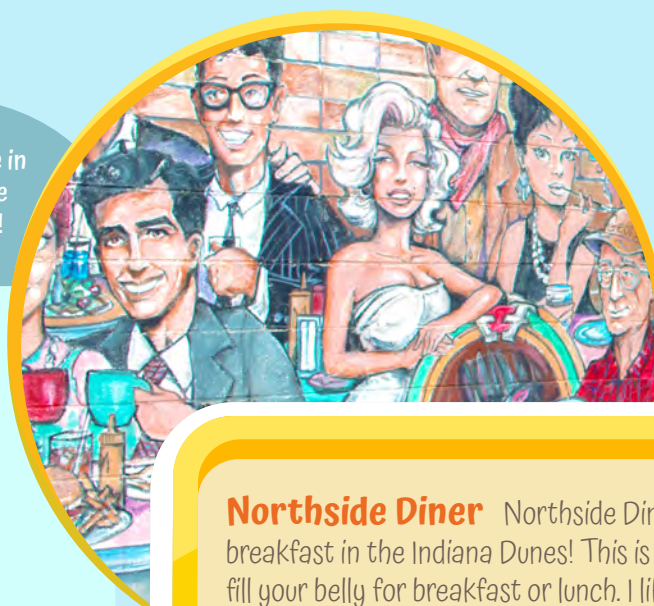
1050 Horseprairie Ave., Valparaíso
219-462-1194
zaoisland.net



Selfie Station: You can't miss the great green dragon at Zao Island. Share your pic with us on social media with [#indianadunes](#) and [#beachesandbeyond](#).



Selfie Station: Posing for a selfie in front of the celebrity mural outside Northside Diner is a local tradition!



Northside Diner Northside Diner has the best breakfast in the Indiana Dunes! This is a fun place to fill your belly for breakfast or lunch. I like to sit in a booth and look at all the artwork on the walls, and sometimes I even get to play a song on their jukebox!

100 N. Calumet Road, Chesterton



Chesterton's European Market 🐾🐾

You never know what you'll find at the European Market. Lots of artists sell their paintings, handmade clothes and jewelry, photography, and so much more! Make sure you're hungry because there's also some of the best food you'll find at the Indiana Dunes. Your dog can come too, but make sure you keep a hand on their leash so they don't run off after all those delicious smells!

Broadway and Third Street, Chesterton
219-926-5513
dunelandchamber.org



HISTORY & CULTURE



Parent Tip:

Double features are shown nightly in the summer and on weekends in the fall. Visit indianadunes.com for current hours and information.

49er Drive-In Theatre 🐾 Did you know the 49er is one of the only original drive-in theaters left in the United States? People have been watching movies here since they were my great-grandparents' age! My family likes to bring a big blanket to lay out on the lawn and something to play with before the movie starts at sunset.

675 N. Calumet Ave., Valparaiso
219-462-6122
49erdrivein.com



Industrial Revolution Look for the model train track running along the ceiling, and hear all about interesting people in history from your servers! This place has some of the best burgers in the area, and kids eat free on Mondays with an adult purchase.

1084 Linwood Ave., Valparaiso
219-465-1801
industrialrevolutioneatery.com



Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm

Fur traders started moving to the Indiana Dunes area way back in the 1800s. You can see what it was like when you visit the Homestead and Chellberg Farm! You can walk around the farm and see inside the homes and buildings built almost 200 years ago. The Indiana Dunes National Park throws some of my favorite festivals here during the year, but you can schedule a tour anytime.

618 N. Mineral Springs Rd., Porter
219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu



Parent Tip:

The Indiana Dunes National Park hosts a number of kid-centered events here throughout the year, including a springtime favorite, Maple Sugar Time!

Landmark: Joseph Bailly was the first non-native resident in the dunes area, and he set up a fur trading post here in 1822.

Porter County Museum During the Ice Age, the Indiana Dunes were completely frozen over by glaciers. Back then, huge animals like woolly mammoths lived here. Did you know there's a real mammoth skull at the Porter County Museum? To see the best of everything, check out one of their scheduled tours. You can explore over 10,000 years of Indiana Dunes history.

153 S. Franklin St., Valparaiso
219-465-3595
pocomuse.com



Landmark: The Porter County Museum is made up of different locations in downtown Valparaiso, including the Valparaiso Fire Museum. This is another great place to schedule a class field trip.

BEACHES & BEYOND

Parent Tip:

The Port Drive-In is open seasonally, March–October. Closed on Mondays.

The Port Drive-In There's nothing quite like an old-school drive-in restaurant, and this is the only one in town. Chow down on a burger, fries, and a classic milkshake in the car or in the dining room. But don't forget to request a tall frosty mug of homemade root beer!

419 N. Calumet Rd., Chesterton
219-926-3500
theportdrivein.net



Broken Wagon Bison Farm If you've never seen a bison up close, you should take a wagon ride at Broken Wagon Bison Farm—it's so cool! See who can spot the biggest bison in the herd, and learn all about these cool animals from the farmers. Call for a personal tour anytime, and make sure you check out the gift shop before you leave!

563 W. 450 North, Hobart
219-759-3523
brokenwagonbison.com





Gabis Arboretum **at Purdue Northwest**

"Arboretum" is another word for a garden. At Gabis, explore gardens, woodlands, wetlands, and prairies where you can see tons of beautiful plants and 80 different types of birds. One of my favorite things is the railway garden, where model trains run through tiny towns, along rivers, and even up into the mountains! Plan to stay for the afternoon so that you don't miss a thing.

450 W. 100 North, Valparaiso
219-462-0025
pnw.edu/gabis-arboretum



Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk

Look out over Lake Michigan from the end of the pier, and bring your binoculars or a fishing pole! This is a cool place to go birding and fishing. Remember, if you don't have binoculars, you can always borrow some from the Visitor Center. There's also a beautiful trail that loops around the lakefront, and it's fully handicap accessible!

6150 U.S. 12 (100 Riverwalk Dr.), Portage



Closer Look: Watch your step on the paved trails at Portage Lakefront this summer—you'll see yellow-striped salamanders racing all around the edges of the trail!



EVEN MORE TO **DISCOVER**



Want to discover even more at the Indiana Dunes?

Great choice! Here are some other must-sees and dos to help you get the most out of your adventure.

Remember, you can get even more tips by watching our

**Dunes 101
Video Series!**

The Indiana Dunes



Indiana Dunes National Park

The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was renamed Indiana Dunes National Park in 2019, making it the 61st National Park in the United States! There are so many places to swim and play at the beaches or hike and explore the trails. Stop by the Visitor Center and ask about the Indiana Dunes Scavenger Hunt or how you can become a Junior Ranger. You can also meet an official ranger to hike and explore the dunes with an expert.

1215 N. State Road 49, Porter
219-395-1882
nps.gov/indu

Parent Tip:

There is a per-car fee at the gate to enter the State Park and the National Park's West Beach. Call ahead for ranger-guided tour schedule. Lifeguards are on duty at the State Park beach and at West Beach.



Indiana Dunes State Park

At the Indiana Dunes State Park, you can learn about wildlife and history in the Nature Center, and there's almost always activities for kids going on in the summer. Explore the 16.5 miles of trails, complete fun activities to earn a Park Patch, and see if you can earn a sticker by conquering the 3 Dune Challenge.

1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton
in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm



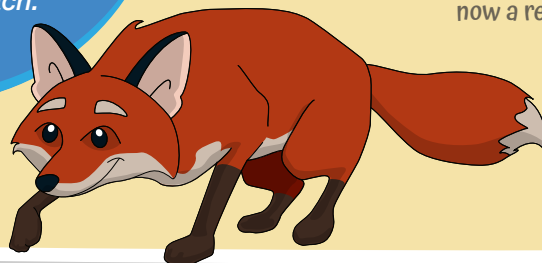
Dunes Learning Center

Dunes Learning Center gives kids a chance to learn about the Indiana Dunes by being out in nature with the experts. Visit indianadunes.com to see what events are happening during your visit.

700 Howe Rd., Chesterton
219-395-9555
duneslearningcenter.org

Hidden Gem: Tucked away between Highways 12 and 20, you'll find the old Porter County Schoolhouse, which is now a really cool destination store called the Schoolhouse Shop!

278 E. 1500 North,
Chesterton





Parent Tip:
The Discovery Trail
is a road map to many
of the top attractions and
sites of interest in the
Indiana Dunes area. Find
the full site list online at
indianadunes.com



Beyond the Beach



Beaches and Beyond Discovery Trail

Shake off the sand south of the dunes on the Beaches and Beyond Discovery Trail. You'll find beautiful wildlife and exciting adventures along the trail, where there are 60 natural, historical, and cultural sites to explore.

Ask about the Discovery Trail when you stop by the Visitor Center.



Butterfly Meadows & Caterpillar Crossing

Inside Foundation Meadows Park in Valparaiso, you'll find an area that's full of fun. It's a great place to eat a packed lunch at the picnic shelter and spend the afternoon playing together on the playground or making music on the brand new kid-sized instruments.

3210 N. Campbell St., Valparaiso



Memorial Opera House

This is where art and history come together! The Memorial Opera House hosts plays, musicals, and community events during the year. Most people don't know that legends like the Marx Brothers—funny actors from the early 1900s—have performed here. See if you can catch a show during your visit at indianadunes.com.

104 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso
219-548-9137
memorialoperahouse.com



Portage 16 IMAX

This is one of the best theaters around. If you like watching superheroes in 3D, this is the place to be. Don't worry about a tall person sitting in front of you—the screen is so big that you feel like you're a part of the movie!

6550 American Way, Portage
219-764-7469



ValPLAYso

This is one of the coolest playgrounds in the whole Indiana Dunes area. The wooden playground is full of places to run and play all kinds of games, plus, there are tire swings, cool games, and a nature walk area close by!

1400 E. Glendale Blvd., Valparaiso

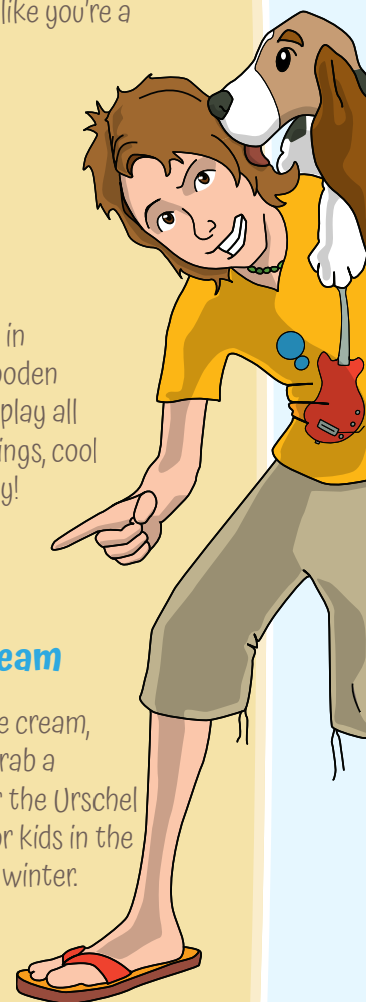


Valpo Velvet Ice Cream

With 70 different famous flavors of ice cream, you won't know what to taste first! Grab a delicious treat and sit downtown near the Urschel Pavilion, where there's a splash-pad for kids in the summer and an ice skating rink in the winter.

57 Monroe St., Valparaiso
valpovelvet.com

Selfie Station: Valpo Velvet's dairy farm mural is another favorite photo opportunity.



EVENTS

MAY



Indiana Dunes Birding Festival

Over 370 kinds of birds live or migrate through the Indiana Dunes. The Birding Festival is a four-day event during spring migration, which means you can see more birds than in any other season at the dunes! Sign up for different activities, tours, educational programs with live birds, and hikes led by local birding and nature experts.

1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton
in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm

JULY



Bark in the Park

Toys, treats, and tail-wagging fun! Visit booths of local animal shelters, and maybe even adopt one of their adorable animals! There are lots of training tips and fun contests for your furry friends.

Centennial Park, Chesterton



Annual Sand Sculpture Contest

Forget sandcastles—Every year, teams come to the beach to build some of the wildest sculptures you can imagine. Join the competition, or just come to see all the amazing sandy creations! Contact the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center for more information.

1600 N. 25 East, Chesterton



Porter County Fair

Fun for all! Visit barnyard animals, ride awesome rides, eat delicious food, and watch different events in the grandstands.

215 E. Division Rd., Valparaiso

SEPTEMBER



Popcorn Festival

Watch the Popcorn Parade, explore over 250 arts and crafts booths, play games, and most importantly—eat popcorn! There's live music and all kinds of fun for everyone at the festival.

Downtown Valparaiso

Selfie Station: Take a seat on the bench with the Orville Redenbacher statue, and share your selfie on social!

October



Outdoor Adventure Festival

The Indiana Dunes National Park and Indiana Dunes State Park put on the festival every October, and there are lots of tours and activities for every kind of adventurer! The best part is that the trees start to change color, and the rangers will show you some of the prettiest places to hike in the fall.

1215 N. State Road 49, Porter



FIND FRANKY MAZE

Find Franky's Foxhole

Franky snuck off again, and the whole crew is hitting the hiking trails to help Ayla find him. Follow the Indiana Dunes Discovery Kids to find Franky's foxhole!

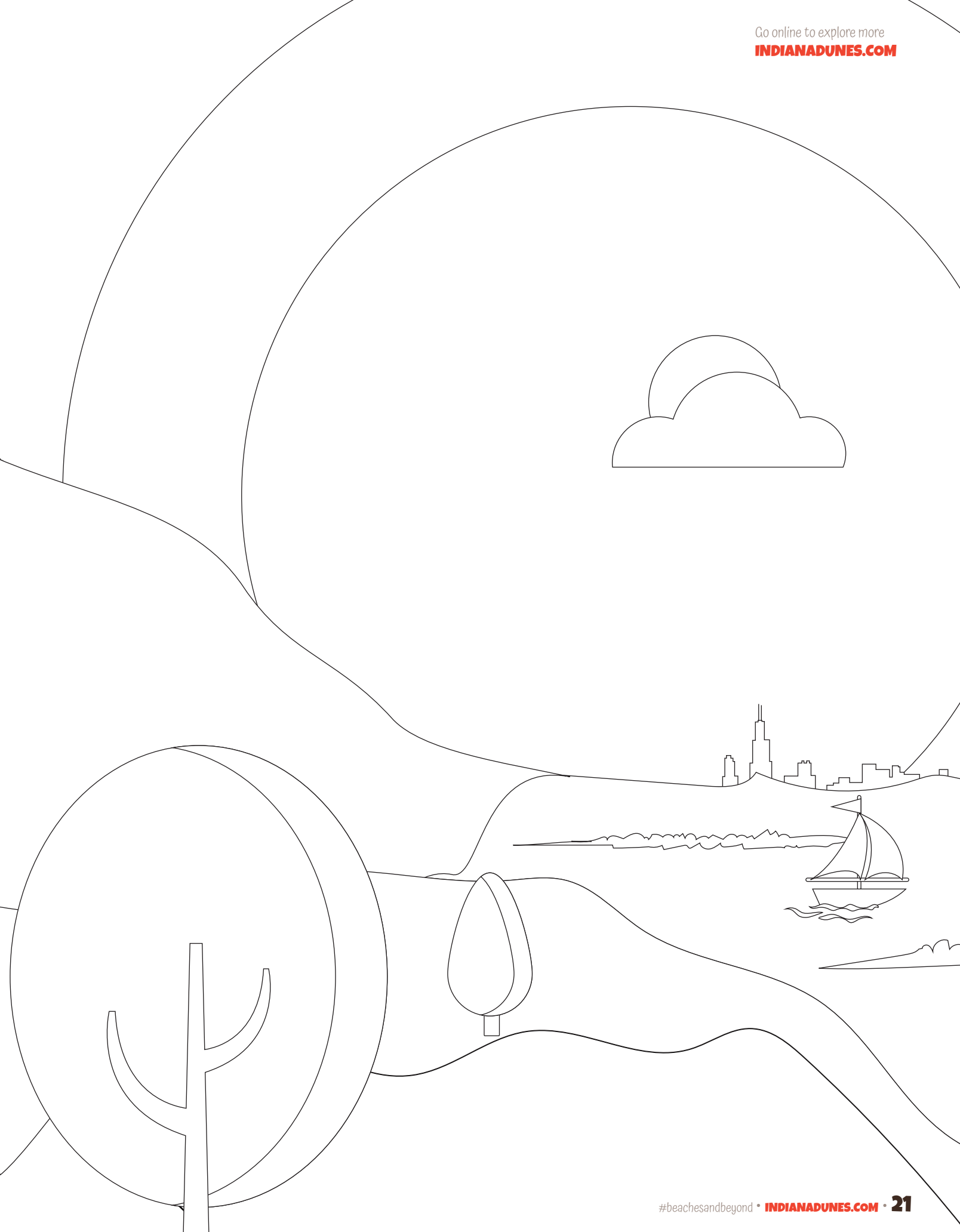
Show us your completed maze at the Visitor Center for a special prize.



COLOR PAGE



Share your coloring pages on social media! Use **#indianadunes** and **#beachesandbeyond**, and we'll feature your artwork at indianadunes.com.



ACTIVITY

Learning American Sign Language



Try Spelling Your Name

Look at my hands and practice signing the alphabet in ASL. Think you've got it? Cool! Stop by the Visitor Center and try fingerspelling your name for a free Indiana Dunes postcard or color-changing pencil!

A



B



C



D



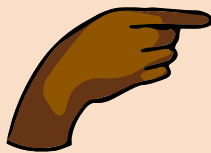
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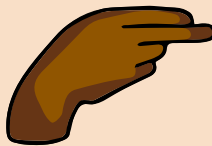
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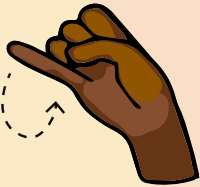
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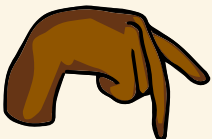
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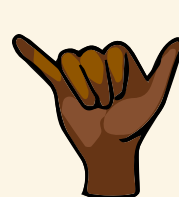
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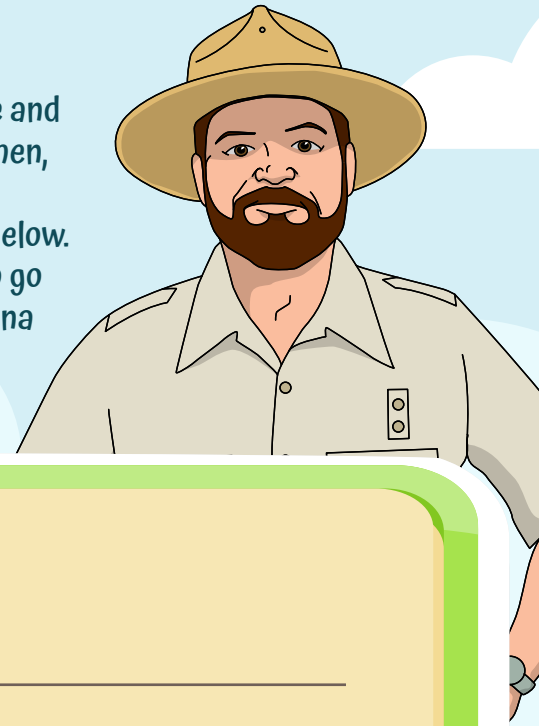


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MY INDIANA Dunes ADVENTURE

Flip through your guide and count up your stars—then, write all your favorite locations on the lines below. Great! Now it's time to go on your very own Indiana Dunes adventure!













Share your adventure on social media! Use **#indianadunes** and **#beachesandbeyond** to see your adventure featured on our story!



Indiana Dunes Tourism
1215 N. State Road 49
Porter, IN 46304
800-283-8687



Now You're an Indiana Dunes Discovery Kid Too!

You did it! Now can help your friends and
family plan an awesome Indiana Dunes
adventure. See you next time!



Grab a new guide
to start a whole new
dunes adventure!

